

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
May 2, 2003

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, May 2, 2003 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Mary R. Harper, Stephen R. Heimann, James W. Payne, Daniel L. Pflum, R. Paulette Stagg, Frank Sullivan, Jr. and Stephen R. Sims, Chair.
2. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on March 7, 2003 were approved.
3. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
4. Guests present. Charlene S. Burkett-Sims, Deputy Director, DFC, FSSA and Cathleen Graham, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies; Susan Kilty, Deputy Legislative Director, FSSA; and Kurt Snyder, Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, (JTAC) Division of State Court Administration; Jimmie McMillian, law clerk for Justice Sullivan.
5. FSSA. Char Burkett-Sims presented information on the implementation of the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO) for Medicaid eligible children for treatment costs in licensed residential facilities. She reported counties will get back 62% of the monies spent for these services. Maximus, a contractor for FSSA, will establish the reimbursement rate for these wards. She distributed an example of this rate setting. Cathy Graham said the uncertainty of the MRO reimbursement rates would cause the IARCCA survey of rates of their member facilities to be suspended for one (1) year. Committee members asked that a rate be provided to courts until the new MRO rates are effective and note facilities will get their MRO rates at different times, based on when they are approved.
6. JTAC – juvenile case management system.
 - a. Justice Sullivan gave an overview of the JTAC juvenile case management system.
 - b. Justice Sullivan asked the Committee to recommend a small working group to JTAC to be a permanent group of advisors on the design of a juvenile case management system. Committee members agreed by consensus to recommend Judges Burnham, Pflum, Payne, Sims, Crowley, and Murray as advisors to JTAC. Other suggested persons include Robert Johnson, who works with computers in the Marion County Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Carlene Thompson who has a similar position for the Allen County Superior Court, Family Relations Division and Don Travis, the juvenile chief probation officer in Howard County. Judge Sims agreed to write a letter to Justice Sullivan with these persons recommended.
7. Recent juvenile legislation.
 - a. Jeff Bercovitz distributed selected portions of House Bill 1001. He also distributed House Bill 1850 and Senate Bills 28, 225, 227, 506, 517.
 - b. Susan Kilty, FSSA, explained HEA 1001, the new “Children’s Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services fund” to committee members. She noted it was created by use of monies

from the Children's and Family Fund in each county. Monies left in the new fund at the end of the year will be paid to DOC for juveniles if the county owes money to DOC.

8. Other.

a. Jeff Bercovitz distributed a draft list of innovative programs to be highlighted at the Annual Meeting of Juvenile and Family Court Judges on June 19-20, 2003 in Brown County. He asked committee members who had not completed the survey to return it to the Judicial Center as soon as possible.

b. Jeff Bercovitz distributed the following articles to committee members: Who Will Care for the Children? The Times, Porter County, March 9, 2003; Prison Guards Injured 49 Juveniles in 2002, April 7, 2003, Too Much Force on Juvenile Offenders, Editorial, April 8, 2003, Juvenile Jail Debt is Still Growing, April 30, 2003, Indianapolis Star; States Flunk First Child Welfare Test, Caseworker Charged in Disabled Boy's Death, News Briefs, Youth Today Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 4, April 2003.

9. Next meeting dates. The committee members agreed to meet on June 6, 2003 from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center. Proposed meeting dates were also distributed: September 10, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and November 7, 2003 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law